



Africa Regional Higher Education Summit

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Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative

Overview of Planning Grants and RFA Process

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Planning Grants & Request for Applications

- Presentation reflects the **current thinking** on aspects of the RFA.
- The **final RFA** – to be released mid-Nov. – will have the **definitive guidelines & language** – after advice & decisions.



Planning Grants Goals

- Develop a **strategic plan** for long-term (10+ yrs) collaboration.
- Enhance **relevance & problem-solving capabilities of African HEIs**.
- Improve **knowledge & capacities of U.S. institutions on African affairs**.



Request for Applications (RFA)

A formal statement that

- invites grant applications in **a well-defined area** to accomplish **specific program objectives**.
- specifies **requirements & guidelines** for application, evaluation and award process for the grant.



Core Components of the RFA

- **Objectives / Goals.**
- **Partnership Descriptions.**
- **Criteria / Review Guidelines.**
- **Eligibility.**



Who can apply for the Planning Grants?

- **Higher education institutions** in the U.S. and USAID-eligible Sub-Saharan African countries.
- **Proposals must be submitted by a U.S. higher education institution.**
- **Additional partners - NGOs, public and private entities, regional and international organizations or associations, etc.**



Applications and Responsibility

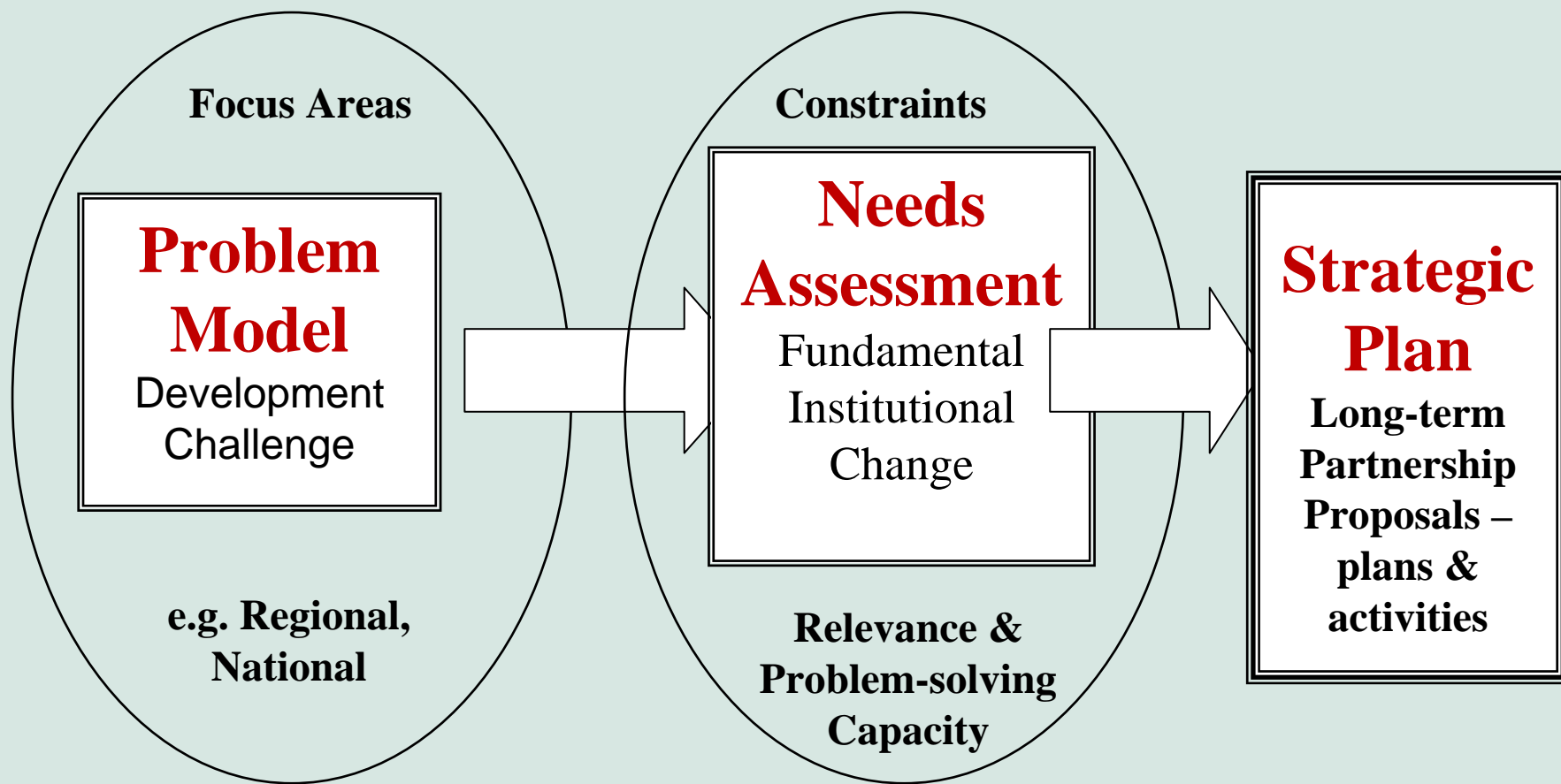
- Each contracting U.S. institution **can submit up to TWO applications.**
- A contracting U.S. institution with partner(s) in SSA **may receive only ONE award.**
- U.S. institutions may participate as secondary institutions on other applications.
- **African institutions** may participate in as many applications as they see fit.



Awards

- U.S. institutions will be the **contract recipients**, with reporting and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Funds are expected to be **EQUITABLY** distributed between U.S. and African institutions.

Model of the Planning Grant





Possible Evaluation Criteria

- **Alignment of outcomes with objectives of the Initiative and RFA.**
- **Potential impact.**
- **Commitment of the institutions.**
- **Plan & Processes for Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan.**
- **Management, Reporting & Monitoring plan.**



RFA Review Process

- Administered by Higher Education for Development (HED)
- External Expert **Review Panel**.
- Evaluated **against the criteria**.
- **Most competitive** and quality applications recommended.
- Approval by USAID - early March 2009.



Grant Award

- **Notification to winners & public announcement – March 2009.**
- **Agreements of contracts**
- **Sub-contracting with award winners - early June 2009.**



Partners' Meeting

July/August 2009 in Africa

- **Abstract**
- **Discuss progress**
- **Share experience and lessons**
- **Linkages with potential funders**



Expected Outcome

- **20 strategic plans - Nov. 2009**
 - A basis for long term Africa-U.S. HEI engagement & partnerships
 - Proposals for future funding (Initiative and others)



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